

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 DPW-01 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01

OIC-04 EUR-25 AID-20 DRC-01 /185 W

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R 150940Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2556

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 0893

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM ICRC OAU VN GH

SUBJ: FEBRUARY 1974 GENEVA CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR:

ATTENDANCE OF PRG

REF: (A) STATE 27026; (B) STATE 27778 (C) STATE 27777

1. COVERING POINTS CONTAINED REFTELS, EMBOFF MADE DEMARCHE OPPOSING PRG ATTENDANCE AT FORTHCOMING LAW OF WAR (LOW) CONFERENCE TO DIRECTOR MFA'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES DIVISION FEBRUARY 14. EMBOFF TOLD DIRECTOR OF USG'S PREPAREDNESS ACCEPT OBSERVER STATUS FOR AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AT SUBJECT CONFERENCE (PARA 5 REFTEL A).

2. DIRECTOR SAID THAT, WHILE GOG'S POSITION MAY NOT BE THE ONE PREFERRED BY INDIVIDUALS WITHIN MINISTRY, GOG MUST CONSIDER MAJORITY VIEW OF OAU IN TAKING A POSTION. OFFICIAL ADDED THAT NOT ONLY IS OAU VIEW IMPORTANT TO GOG BUT THAT VIEWS OF ASIANS
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MUST ALSO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. EMBOFF THEN DISCUSSED DANGERS INHERENT IN BLOC VOTING PATTERNS BY AFRICAN STATES ON ISSUES OF

MARGINAL INTEREST AFRICA ALONG LINES OF STATE 250151, 12/26/73,
WHICH SUMMARIZED OUR ASSESSMENT OF VOTING PATTERNS DURING LAST
UNGA.

E. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING VALIDITY OF EMBOFF'S COMMENTS AND
REPEATING OBSERVATION THAT VIEWS OF INDIVIDUALS MIGHT
DIFFER, DIRECTOR REITERATED IMPORTANCE OF MAJORITY OAU VIEW
IN FORMULATING GOG POSITION. HE CONCLUDED BY VOLUNTEERING THAT
GOG POSITION PAPER HAD BEEN PREPARED AND WOULD BE CONSIDERED AT
MEETING FEBRUARY 15 OF COMMISSIONER AND OTHER HIGH MFA OFFICIALS.
HE SAID THE PAER COMMENTED ON THE QUESTION BOTH OF AFRICAN
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND PRG REPRESENTATION AT LOW CONFERENCE.

4. COMMENT: WILL ATTEMPT ASCERTAIN GOG DECISION ON PRG ISSUE
BY WEEKEND. APPARENT THAT SOME IMPORTANT MFA OFFICIALS PERSONALLY
ACCEPT AND AGREE WITH ARGUMENTATION BEHIND OUR OPPOSITION
ATTENDANCE OF PRG AT LOW CONFERENCE. FAVORABLE GHANAIAI VOTE
ON KHMER REPRESENTATION ISSUE AT LAST FALL'S UNGA EXAMPLE OF
GHANAIAI COURAGE, REASONABLENESS, AND LOGICAL INDEPENDENT
THOUGHT ON SUCH NON-AFRICAN ISSUES. DIRECTOR'S COMMENT THAT
ASIAN VIEWS ALSO PLAYING A ROLE IN GHANAIAI POLICY-MAKING MAY
INDICATE THERE IS SOME VOTE TRADING BEING CONSIDERED. GIVEN
LEADING ROLE PLAYED BY GHANA'S COMMISSIONER FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN
AFRICAN LIBERATION COMMITTEE (HE IS CURRENT CHAIRMAN) AND RULING
NATIONAL REDEMPTION COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN LIBERATION
MOVEMENTS, GHANA'S DECISION-MAKERS MAY HAVE DETERMINED TO
ATTEMPT HAVE LOW CONFERENCE ADOPT OAU POSITION ON STATUS
AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS BY TRADING OFF VOTES ON OTHER
ISSUES. BUT GHANA'S DELEGATION TO CONFERENCE (ACCRA 520)
CONSISTS OF SOME REASONABLE MEN, WHO, IF THEY ARE GIVEN ANY
LATITUDE IN THEIR INSTRUCTIONS, ARE SUSCEPTIBLE REASONED
LOBBYING PROVIDED IT NOT OF THE ARM-TWISTING VARIETY.
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